June 22, 1965

PROCESSOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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Since this is the end of the first year of the processor development program, it seems appropriate to look at the strength and weakness of the project.

First a clean room facility has been established and a program outlined to determine clean room requirements. By accurately determining the cleanliness levels needed it may be possible to reduce filtering and construction costs, (and just possibly this might save more for the government than the entire cost of the program).

Second, they have undertaken to establish some sorely needed data on high temperature processing which for some unaccountable reason is unavailable from film manufacturers.

Third, they have measured some fundamental data such as film bending forces, drag forces on film in water, and efficiency of flow thru pipe and fittings which should be available in the general technical literature, but isn't.

Fourth, they have established a hard working and inspired group which is imaginative and inventive.

The program has been operating under two major handicaps: a) It got a very slow start because [ ] management was unable to make timely manpower assignments; b) The program manager, [ ] does not have clearance to permit him to converse easily and continuously with his customer. As a result he operates in somewhat of a vacuum and this is deadly to an investigative program.

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These handicaps have snowballed to produce other handicaps, the principal one being a shortage of funding.

Next a few words about the shortcomings of the program:

First, [ ] management is highly oriented toward hardware design and production and therefore finds it difficult to

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guide and judge a program of this sort. The [redacted] climate does not stimulate a good research program. STAT

Second, I'm not convinced of the high technical competence of the technical staff on this program. I admit I have not had the opportunity to study their technical reports carefully and this may not be a fair judgement.

Third, the program gives the impression of a scattergun attack on a multitude of problems rather than a solidly oriented, well considered research program. The original charter was deliberately made broad to provide [redacted] considerable freedom in orientation and priorities. STAT

In summary, it is my opinion that the strengths of the program far outweigh its shortcomings and the program should be vigorously supported. Processing is such an important link in the image quality chain that a program like this is desperately needed. The program pace, while slow by some standards, is far faster than the pace of University research for example. It is not as thorough, however.

To bolster technical competence and provide inspiration and guidance, I suggest a quarterly technical review of the program. I suggest it be accomplished by a team which spends 2 or 3 days at [redacted] having previously done its homework by reading the [redacted] reports. I suggest the team be composed of [redacted] as contract monitor, [redacted] as staff scientist, a man from the academic staff of the [redacted] a man from the Pentagon, and the head of your own processing lab. The first review should take place in July 1965, the second in October 1965 and the third in December 1965. This is only one suggestion and you may think of better ways to accomplish the same result. STAT STAT STAT STAT

Present status of the clean room indicates it will be ready for operation in July. It is completed and some 5 pages of discrepancies have been corrected. [redacted] Company is now convinced that they actually must meet the temperature and humidity control accuracy requirements. STAT

A number of technical reports on task assignments have been published and more will be published by the end of June. Work is continuing on the clean room task, the liquid bearing task, the vacuum capstan task, the high processing data task and the comprehensive film processing data chart task.

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